**What is an exploration, a discovery and an invention?**

The word "explore" originates from two Latin words: "Ex" meaning "out" and "plorare", meaning "to cry". It was first used when mankind were hunters. The hunter made something known using a loud cry or shout. Another theory suggests that the second syllable of the word originates from "pluere" which means "to flow". Although the exact origin of the current meaning is vague, the intended meaning is clear. Exploration is an action initiated by discovery. Today, exploration is defined as "the act of searching or traveling for the purpose of discovery". The keywords are "search", "purpose" and "discovery".  
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The human race has explored since the beginning of its existence. Initially we explored our immediate surroundings for food, shelter and companions. Gradually we expanded our horizons by venturing beyond familiar territory. We crossed rivers by boat and land on the backs of domestic animals. Through these journeys we gained knowledge of food sources, fire-building, new cultures and different behavior. Over thousands of years we gathered information by exploring our planet.

The basic rule of thumb is that a discovery is something which already exists, whereas an [invention](http://www.blurtit.com/Science/History_Of_Science/Invention/) is something which has been created as being entirely new.  
So for example, America was discovered (probably by the Vikings in the 10th or 11th Century). America existed and so it could not be invented. It had to be discovered.   
On the other hand a [chocolate](http://www.blurtit.com/q242025.html) bar could be invented.